

A LONG LOST APHIS SPECIES

(Homoptera: Aphididae)

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The writer recently had occasion to look up the works of John Curtis in *Index Litterature Entomologicae* by Horn and Schenkling. While doing so I came across the following citation, "On *Aphis borealis* from the Polar Sea. In Parry, Narrative of an Attempt to reach the North Pole. 1828. Appendix." Not having heard of an aphid species by that name an attempt was made to find it in aphid literature without success. A copy of the work by Parry was located in the Library of Congress and photostats of the title page and of page 201 on which *Aphis borealis* was described were obtained. The title as given by Horn and Schenkling, while highly descriptive, is theirs and not that of Parry or Curtis, for the species is described under the simple title "Insect", and one finds that it was the only insect taken during the voyage. The original description follows:

"Order, Hemiptera, Linn., &c. Omoptera, Leach.

Fam. Aphidae, Lat. Leach.

Genus, Aphis, Linn., &c.

A. Borealis, Curtis's MSS.

"Corpus magnum, atrum, hirsutum, femoribus basi ferrugineis: alis magnis, subfuscis, ad costam atris.

"At first sight this insect might be mistaken for *A. Piceae* of Panzer, which it resembles in size and colour. Upon a closer examination, however, it will be seen that the whole surface, excepting the wings, is covered with rather long and somewhat hoary tomentum or pubescence; and the base only of the thighs is ferruginous; whereas, in *A. Piceae*, the whole insect is naked, and the antennae, thighs, and tibiae are ferruginous or reddish at their base."

The circumstance of *Aphis borealis* having been found on floating floes of ice in the Polar Sea, at one hundred miles distance from the nearest known land, and as far north as $82\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$, renders it in a more than ordinary degree interesting.

Its very near resemblance to *Aphis piceae*, which feeds on the silver fir (*Pinus picea* Linn.), whence it derives its name, would induce the belief that the floating trees of fir, that are to be found so abundantly on the shores and to the northward of Spitzbergen, might possibly be the means by which this insect has been transported to the northern regions. It was never seen on the wing, and the few specimens that were obtained were in a very languid state, but revived by the heat of the hand. The last paragraph of observations was written by Parry.

Aphis borealis Curtis 1828 is most likely a synonym of the species *Schizolachnus pineti* (Fab.) which is the same species described by DeGeer as *Aphis (tomentosa) pini* and often incorrectly credited to him.

It is of interest to report that Elton (1925) records the finding of *Dilachus piceae* Panzer (now placed in the genus *Cinara*) in great numbers on the snow on Spitzbergen where the nearest land source is the Kola Peninsula of Russia some eight hundred miles away. Elton reports finding one aphid every thirty or forty yards and eighty percent of these were alive, on an eight mile trip.

REFERENCES CITED

- ELTON, C.S. 1925. The Dispersal of Insects to Spitzbergen. Trans. Ent. Soc. London. pp. 289-299.
- PARRY, WILLIAM EDWARD, Captain R. N., F. R. S. 1828. Narrative of an Attempt to Reach the North Pole, in boats fitted for the purpose, and attached to His Majesty's Ship Hecla, in the Year MDCCCXXVII. John Murray, Publisher to the Admiralty, and Board of Longitude. appendix p. 201.

CARTODERE FILUM IN CALIFORNIA

(Coleoptera: Lathridiidae)

Examples of this tiny elongate beetle were reared from a small log of California laurel (*Umbellularia californica* Nutt.), collected in the woods in Mill Valley, Marin Co., California. *C. filum* Aubé feeds on the spores of fungi, and is more commonly associated with human dwellings. Dr. E. C. Van Dyke has taken it from herbarium specimens in Berkeley, Calif.—H. B. LEECH.